

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /076 W
-----121454 140416Z /63

R 130918Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 694
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2671

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR TS
SUBJ: MENZEL-BOURGUIBA: ITALIAN EXCHANGE WITH TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) TUNIS 2597, (B) USNATO 3551

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR BIUFFRIDA HAS INFORMED US THAT
MENZEL-BOURGUIBA ISSUE WAS RAISED WITH GOT DURING CURRENT
VISIT OF DELEGATION FROM ITALIAN INSTITUTE OF HIGH MILITARY
STUDIES. ACCORDING TO GIUFFRIDA, DELEGAION, HEADED BY
COMMANDER OF INSTITUTE ADMIRAL LUIGI CACIOPPO, EXPRESSED
CONCERN OVER SOVIET USE OF MENZEL-BOURGUIBA SHIP REPAIR
FACILITIES DURING DELEGATION'S MEETING WITH MINISTER OF
DEFENSE FARHAT ON APRIL 10. FARHAT'S RESPONSE WAS SIMILAR
TO PREVIOUS DEMARCHES FROM NATO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES
INLTUNIS. HE SIAD THAT NO AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS EXISTS,
THAT RECENT SOVIET USE OF SHIPYARD HAD BEEN DICTATED BY
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NEED FOR BUSINESS IN MONEY-LOSING ENTERPRISE, THAT GOT
HAD UNSUCCESSFULLY OFFERED MENZEL-BOURGUIBA BACILITIES TO
NATO COUNTRIES AND THAT OFFER STILL OPEN. FARHAT ADDED
THAT IN ANY EVENT, SOVIET ACCESS TO MENZEL-BOURGUIBA IS
STRICTLY LIMITED AND THAT REQUESTS WERE CAREFULLY EXAMINED ON
CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

2. ASIDE FROM ITALIAN AND EARLIER U.S. INITIATIVES, WE ARE AWARE
THAT AT LEAST FIVE OTHER NATO COUNTRIES HAVE REGISTERED
EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN TO GOT OVER SOVIET USE OF
MENZEL-BOURGUIBA. THEY ARE UK, FRG, CANADA, FRANCE AND
BELGIUM. OTHER NATO ALLIES MAY ALSO HAVE RAISED MATTER
IN COURSE OF REGULAR BILATERAL
TALKS. MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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